

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
745 SECOND STREET, LA SALLE, IL.
7:00 P.M., Tuesday, June 17, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeff Grove at 7:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present- Mayor Grove, Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon

Excused Absence- Alderman Schneider

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds that the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held on Tuesday, June 3, 2014 are accepted and placed on file. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

PETITIONS

Moved by Alderman Duncan and seconded by Alderman Ptak to grant the request for a 2014 Raffle License to Sara Legrenzi on behalf of St. Hyacinth's Bazaar.

Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to grant the request of the St. Hyacinth's Bazaar Committee to close off 11th Street between Hennepin and Tonti Streets on Saturday, August 23, 2014 from 5 p.m. to midnight.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Duncan to grant the request of Vicki Bickel of the LP Bank Parent Association to conduct their annual door-to-door candy sale in La Salle on Thursday, September 11, 2014 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Herndon to grant the request for a Solicitor's Permit to Ali Jabali owner of Amira Ice Cream to sell pre-packaged ice cream products from a vehicle.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to grant the request of Pastor Michael Shaver of Servant's Heart Outreach Ministries to block off 8th Street between Crosat and La Harpe on Sunday, August 3, 2014 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. for their second annual "Back to School Block Party."

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Herndon that the request from Roger Yanish for two handicapped parking spaces in front of his home at 1114 First Street is referred to the Streets, Alleys and Traffic Committee.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Alderman Bacidore indicated the Streets, Alleys and Traffic Committee will meet on **Tuesday, July 1, 2014 at 6:45 p.m.** to consider the request of Mr. Yanish. Mayor Grove asked the clerk to contact Mr. Yanish and request if he can be present at the meeting if possible.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Herndon that the Building Inspector's Report for May 2014 showing total fees collected of \$5,394.83 be accepted and placed on file. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Lavieri that the Monthly Police Income Report for May 2014 showing total fees collected of \$9,998.41 be accepted and placed on file. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Demes that the Illinois Department of Revenue Report showing sales tax collected for March 2014 of \$74,952.51 and referendum approved sales tax of \$30,961.28 for a total of \$105,913.79 be accepted and placed on file. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and deny the request from Steve Staab for a \$50.00 donation for IVCIL's upcoming Comedy Hypnosis fundraiser on June 28, 2014. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, NAY: None
Absent: Schneider Abstain: None

Motion carried 7-0

OLD BUSINESS

In regard to the premises at 610 Bucklin, Mayor Grove explained to the public that the house has been demolished and the City is working on obtaining easements to realign a sewer so the contractor can move forward, fill the hole and re-seed the lot. Alderman Herndon stated that he was thanked by a neighbor to the north of this property for the city's help on this issue. The City Engineer and Superintendent of Public Works are working on addressing the sewer issue in the least expensive way possible.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Ptak asked Finance Director John Duncan to explain the new water billing procedures. Mr. Duncan stated that the new utility billing module went live on June 16. Under the old system, the City utilized four different billing cycles. The new system has one billing date for all residents. Bills will now be mailed out on or around the 20th of each month, with a due date on or around the 6th of the month. The previous procedure began with the bills being mailed on a postcard. Fifteen days later the bill was due. If payment was not received by the due date residents were mailed a pink reminder notice allowing five additional days to pay. After the five day penalty window or the 20th day, City manpower would go out and "*red tag*" homes notifying the owner that water would be shut off the next day. If still unpaid, water would in fact be shut off and an additional turn on fee was billed to the resident. This process was labor intensive, as crews would have to go out four times during the month to red tag and do shut offs. The new system provides new efficiencies that made the process more streamlined and less labor intensive both in the office and for the street crew. Mr. Duncan recommended in conjunction with the implementation of the new system, the "*red tag*" step be eliminated. This would require an ordinance change. He asked Attorney McPhedran to draft the language and complete the amended ordinance for council consideration prior to the July billing due date.

In addition, he noted that June bills will be sent out on Friday, June 20. Some residents may notice a variance on their June water bill due to the previous multiple billing cycles. Some residents may notice a slight increase or decrease depending on where they previously fell in the multiple billing cycles. However, all bills will all be consistent by the July billing. The new system still provides for at least a fifteen day payment period.

Alderman Duncan questioned the amount of people receiving pink notices and shut offs. Of the City's 3,996 billing units, Finance Director Duncan indicated about 23% of residents are currently receiving pink late notices and 300-400 residences per month are red tagged which were handwritten door hangers. Approximately 30 homes are shut-off each month.

Mayor Grove wanted to educate water users that they will not receive red tags any longer and shut off dates will be noted on the late notification as well as on the initial bill. The new billing allows for messages to be included on the water bill and the discontinuation of the red tag will be communicated on the first billing.

Alderman Bacidore questioned Mr. Duncan if City crews could handle all 30 shut-offs in one day once the red tag procedure is eliminated. Mr. Duncan responded that he and Superintendent Bumgarner have discussed how there will be consistency in scheduling of staff with the new system and they will adapt as the system is implemented. Mayor Grove stated it will be a learning curve for all as users and City staff adapt to the new notification process.

The current notification process is costly and labor intensive and the new system will streamline this process. Going from three reminders to two reminders will reduce costs and labor.

Mr. Duncan explained that it is anticipated with the August billing there will be on-line and paperless payment options that users may opt for. This will be heavily promoted as it saves mailing costs. He added that although the new system utilizes an 8 ½" x 11" sheet of paper versus a postcard mailing, costs are actually less. The City can receive a bulk mailing rate by using an off-site company to mail bills and once residents take advantage of the paperless and on-line billing the City will realize the savings of the system.

Mayor Grove stressed that residents need to be looking for the new bill arriving in a City of La Salle envelope and no longer on a postcard.

Again, in regard to cost savings, Mr. Duncan reiterated that although the postage on a postcard may be less, when considering all aspects of the new utility billing process including equipment and labor, the postcard mailing method was more expensive. In addition, by having the mailing done off-site, the bulk mailing rate offsets costs.

Alderman Lavieri questioned if users are charged extra for paying by credit card. Mr. Duncan confirmed that the payer is not charged an additional fee for utilizing that method of payment. The City absorbs costs involved with credit card processing.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Demes to follow the Finance Director's recommendation and begin the process to have the City Attorney adjust the water and sewer ordinance eliminating the red tag procedure.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, NAY: None
Absent: Schneider Abstain: None

Motion carried 7-0

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

There were no ordinances or resolutions.

COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

Alderman Reynolds thanked everyone who assisted in any way with Celebrate La Salle. Mayor Grove reiterated his thanks to all who helped and indicated that LPAC was meeting in the morning to recap the event and discuss ideas for next year.

Alderman Lavieri stated that 1600 people went through the NASA exhibit at the library which resulted in record sign-ups for the kid's summer reading program. In addition he stated the kid's fishing tournament held on Saturday, June 7 was attended by 258 children.

Mayor Grove reminded everyone of the La Salle Farmer's Market being held each Tuesday at Hegeler Park through September. The market is open from 3-6 p.m.

City Clerk Carrie Brown recognized and thanked the Park and Recreation Department's summer help crew who assisted her with set-up for the kid's game portion of Celebrate La Salle.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri that bills submitted totaling: \$255,941.38 (Total Payroll \$182,752.83 Total Bills Paid \$73,188.55) be accepted, paid and placed on file. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, NAY: None
Absent: Alderman Schneider Abstain: None

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Herndon to adjourn the meeting.
Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

ADJOURNED 7:35 p.m.

Carrie Brown, City Clerk